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SUPERINTENDENTS GRAVELY CONCERNED BY PROPOSED EDUCATION FUNDING

Tallahassee, FL — Florida superintendents are gravely concerned about the proposed Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding. The currently proposed funding levels are not sufficient to meet the basic funding needs of Florida's 2.8 million public school students and result in a negative budget for many Florida school districts.

"Considering the overall economic strength of our state, it is alarming that the basic funding needs of Florida public school students could go unaddressed," states FADSS President and Escambia County Superintendent Malcolm Thomas. "With a united voice, we call upon Florida legislators to increase the base student funding in support of public education in Florida," adds Thomas.

The bottom line — many school districts in Florida will receive less student funding next year. While the impact at the local level will be felt differently in each of Florida's 67 counties, the commonality is that every school district will experience negative repercussions as they face increased costs in health care, utilities, fuel and other operational costs.

The initial budget request by Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Senate proposed a 3% per student increase for public education plus funding for 24,000 new students which would have met the needs of current students and the needs due to the increased enrollment growth.

Florida superintendents stand united in calling upon Florida legislators to increase the base student funding for public education as the currently proposed FEFP fails to meet the basic funding needs for Florida's 2.8 million students.